Exact and Sure

Directions

HOW TO

Dreſs and Keep

Canary-Birds,

AND TO

Preſerve them in Health.

AND ALSO,

How to Uſe and Keep

THE

New Faſhion

Bird-Cages.

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MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

A GOOD and SURE Way how to

Dreſs and Keep Canary-Birds:

To Preſerve them in Good Health.

How to Mix the Seeds.

TAKE, for *Example*, Three Pints of *Canary*, and One Quart of *Rape-Seeds*, let it be Sifted, and Mix both very well together, and put it in a dry Wainſcot-Box, with a few holes made (with a ſmall Piercer) in the top thereof, which will keep it the ſweeter; keep it ſhut in a dry place, and if your Box hath much in it, ſtir it now and then with a ſtick.

How to try Good Canary Seeds.

LET it be free from Mice Dirt, without any musty smell, dry, and of a bright Colour, full and heavy, chew and taste a few, and if you find they are sweet as Nut-kirnels, you may be sure they are Good.

Of Rape-Seeds.

YOU may choose them after the same manner as the *Canary-Seeds*, only you will find a sharper taste; the smallest and least sharp is the best.

Of Water.

THE Sweetest Water, as one would drink himself, is best, and absolutely necessary, be it Spring or River Water, or from the Pump, which last, I esteem the worst of the Three; I would choose from a clear Spring, as *Lambs Cunduit* Water or from a sweet and clear River, fetch it in

in a ſweet Veſſel, well waſhed, and when it is very warm Weather, give your Birds freſh every day, at other times every other day, unleſs it is very cold, then every third day will ſerve; but ſome Birds will make the Water dirtier than others, then it muſt be changed the oftner. Before rub and waſh the Glaſs often, elſe the filth that ſticks to it, will make the water unwholeſome.

Of Gravel.

YOU may obſerve that Birds will very much play, and pleaſe themſelves with picking in the Gravel, and will carry it in their Water and Seeds, which, when not very clean, will make the water muddy and unwholeſome, therefore, to prevent that, take *two* or *three* quarts of *Gravel*, (ſuch as commonly is uſed to Pave the Streets, but get it clean, as it comes from the Pit,) then put it in a clean Pail of good water, and ſtir it about with a ſtick, then let

the Gravel juſt ſettle, and ſo pour the water off, then take freſh water again, and ſtir it, do ſo *three* or *four* times till the Filth is pritty well waſhed away, then put it in a Earthen Pan or Pot, and ſet it in the Air, or Sun, a drying, in a place where no Gats, Mice, nor Rats, may piſs upon it, elſe your waſhing will be in vain; when well dryed, keep the ſame covered up in a clean Pot or Wainſcot Box, and give each Bird once or twice a Week at moſt, half a handful at a time, in the bottom of the Cage, putting the biggeſt Stones from it.

Theſe Things mentioned, Birds muſt always have, the other Things I ſhall mention hereafter, are either to refreſh them, or when they are not well, and in *Moulting* time, but not conſtantly, elſe, when they are Sick, ſuch things will not do them Good ſo eaſily. Obſerve alſo to give your Birds a very ſmall quantity at a time, of what I ſhall direct you following.

Of Eggs and Bread.

A Good Freſh Egg, boiled hard, and cut it very ſmall, both yolk and white together, then take ſome of the Crums of a Half-penny white Loaf, but let it be ſtale, *two* or *three* Days old, ſoak it in good water, ſuch as you give your Birds, when done, preſs the water out very well, and bruiſe it ſmall between your Fingers, and mix it with the Egg, of an equal quantity of both, with a few *Mawſeeds*, if you have any, and ſo give your Bird a little of it, as half a ſpoonful at a time, and, only while the ſame is freſh and good; this is *Excellent* now and then, but eſpecially in *Molting* time, or when a Bird is not well: but in very *Cold Weather*, when a Bird is very looſe, then give him Eggs and *Mawſeeds* only. When you prepare theſe, let your *Hands*, *Knife*, and *Cup*, &c. be as clean as poſſible.

Of Chick weeds and Lettice.

CHOOSE ſuch *Chick-weeds* as is ſmall, not with thick ſtalks, nor broad *leaves*, but long and ſmall Sprigs, full of little buds, gather it when the *Dew* is off on't, and give it your Bird freſh, only four or ſix Sprigs at a time to a Bird, and only from the middle of *May*, to the middle of *September*, and eſpecially in warm Weather; for when the Froſt has been upon it, it is very dangerous.

Lettice is alſo very good, either of *Cabbage Lettice*, or young *Lettice*, a little leaf or two; of the *Cabbage Lettice*, you muſt *take* but one leaf, that between the Heart and Out-ſide is the beſt. Theſe things are *Excellent* in very hot weather, but not conſtantly, only now and then to refreſh Birds, and eſpecially

especially when Birds grow fat, it will scowr them, and *make* them leaner, which must be your Care, for when Birds grow fat they will Sing but little.

Of Mawseeds.

Mawseeds is one of the best things, your can use for Birds, if right and good, either dry or mixed with Bread and Eggs, a very few at a time; for if they have them always, they perhaps would Eat nothing else, near half a spoonful at a time is enough, if you give it alone; if mixed less will do.

Of Bisket.

A New baked *Naple Bisket*, bruise it to Powder, and give a little now and then, it can do no harm.

Turnep-

Turnip-seeds, *Plantain-seeds*, *Emet*, or *Ant's Eggs*, are very good, especially the latter *black* Emets *Eggs*, are the best, a few at a time.

Of Saffron.

WHen you observe a Bird *Weak* or *Sick*, (which you may see when it sits broad and broody, or hangs its wings, and does not sing) put *three* or *four* little leaves of Saffron in the water, make it sink, and let it lye a little, then stir it to colour the water, and so let the Bird have it two Days, then fresh again, till your Bird begins to be better.

Of Sugar.

LET it be the hardest refin'd Loaf-Sugar, else the Bird will bite it to pieces presently; stick a bit fast in the

the *Wier* above the Higher Pearch.

Observe, when a Bird is very *Sick*, (and a good while, when other things wont do him good) whether there is not a little thing upon the Rump, like an Ulcer, full of Corruption; if full, then take a pair of little sharp pointed Cizzars, and open the same gently with it, and press the Corruption out of it, as softly as you can, without hurting the Bird much; when done, take some Olive Oyl, the best, and let a drop fall upon it where it is open, and let no Feathers stick upon the wound, and so let the Bird go again, without doing more to it, except to give him Eggs and Bread, *&c.* as I said before.

I do not doubt but there will be some that will Despise, or talk against these Directions, or give others, and different ones, which is not to be helpt, nor do I pretend to more knowledge than some may have in these things, but this I say, That

That what I have Asserted here, is nothing else but what I use my self, and what I have Experimented to be good and proper for such sorts of Birds, having been a Lover of them from my Youth, and dare affirm, that seldom a *Bird* falls Sick in my keeping.

How to Use and Keep the New Fashion Bird Cages.

WHen you put your *Bird* into it, observe before, whether his claws are crooked and long, if they are, clip the crooked ends off, with a pair of Cizzars, no more but just to hinder them of hanging in the Wire, you may do it once or twice a Year, according as you see them crooked.

When you put a Bird first in such a *Cage*, let the *Water* stand towards the Window, for that way he may find and see both *Water* and *Seeds*, quicker and

and eaſier, when once found, it is no matter afterwards how the *Glaſſes* ſtand.

When you put *Seeds* into the Glaſs, the firſt time, fill it full, and let a few *Seeds* fall into the *Cage*, juſt by the two holes, for by that way the Bird will ſee, and find it preſently, and when he has found it once, he'll never fail afterwards. Shake the Glaſs with the *Seeds*, once a *Week*, that the *Seeds* at the bottom may come upwards, and do by no means keep the Glaſs always full, but only fill it up once or twice a *Week* at moſt, according as you ſee the ſame about half emptied.

Keep the *Glaſſes* always to their mark, which you may obſerve upon each Glaſs, and the Cape that covers it, elſe if you change them you may ſpoil the beſt contrivance of the *Cage*, and if you chance to break one, let another be fixed to the *Cage*, cloſe as the other was.

Scrape

Scrape the Perches, when Dirty, with the Wire I uſually give to theſe *Cages*; Duſt or Bruſh theſe *Cages*, with a ſoft bruſh now and then, and, if you pleaſe you may (once or twice a year) waſh the Wire Work, in and out-ſide, with a wet Spunge, or ſoft Linnen Rag ſoftly, after you have Waſhed the Dirt pritty well off, dry it again with a dry and ſoft Linnen Cloth, and never ſcowre the Wire otherways, put your Bird into another Cage the while.

The beſt place to hang your Birds, is, *three* or *four* Foot off from the Window in the Sealing, where you may find the Joice with knocking with the hammer, when it ſounds firm there is the Wood, either for Pullies or Hooks, and never too near the Window, for it will be either too Cold or too Hot there; in the Summer the Sun will lye and give too Hot a Reflection upon the Window, and in Winter the Wind will Penetrate through the leaſt Crack againſt

against the Bird, which is apt to make a Bird loose.

It is very necessary to open the Windows, to give your Birds Air in warm Weather, but not in Cold Weather, for if a sharp cool Wind blows at the Birds, either through a Window, or a Door, it is not at all good for them, nor is it necessary to keep them too close, an indifferent Airy Place, between both is best.

Hang the Cage no higher, but just at a Man's Reaching to the bottom of it.

YOU may be Furnished at my House with all sorts of *Bird-Seeds* for all these *Birds*, *Viz.* Canary and Rape, Maw-Seeds, and Turnop-Seeds: Also, Hemp-Seeds for other *Birds*, Pullies, Lines,

Lines, and Counterweights, Bruſhes, and Scrapers, Glaſſes, and whatſoever belongs to theſe *Birds*, and Cages, to keep, and hang them up conveniently.

At the Sign of the *Bird-Cage* in *Long-Acre*, over againſt the *Black Boy* Ale-Houſe near *Phœnix-Ally*.

FINIS.